

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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### Types of Courts in Bulgaria

1. Basic changes have taken place in the Bulgarian legal system since the war, the most important being the abolition of the courts of appeal.<sup>2</sup> In Bulgaria today there are five kinds of law courts:
  - a. The Okoliyski Sud (Okoliya Court), to be found in the small towns; since 1944 their jurisdiction has expanded at the expense of the Okrug Courts, so that they may now try civil cases up to 200,000 Leva (instead of 30,000 Leva as before) and criminal cases concerning theft, rape, fiscal, and other offenses;<sup>3</sup>
  - b. The Okruzhenno Sud (Okrug Court), to be found in each Okrug capital; these courts try civil cases where more than 200,000 Leva are involved, cases involving political offenses and sabotage, and are entitled to quash minor charges;
  - c. The Supreme Court;
  - d. The Courts of Arbitration, set up in 1949 or 1950, to decide disputes pending between two State enterprises or institutions; and
  - e. Military courts, to be found in garrison towns; these have jurisdiction over military personnel only and only those attorneys who are officers in the reserve forces are admitted to such courts; a few years ago military law was included in the law school curriculum.

### The Prosecution

2. The prosecuting authority for criminal cases is the office of the attorney-general in Sofia and its Okrug and Okoliya branches.

### Lawyers' Collectives<sup>4</sup>

3. Lawyers' Collectives were organized in 1948 after the promulgation of a law prohibiting private practise. They are to be found in places with ten or more law-

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yers, and in towns which do not have this number of lawyers, the lawyers are attached to the local courts, with the secretariat of the court distributing cases and fees.

4. A client is not permitted to have any contact with his lawyer until after the entire fee for the case has been paid to the collective. Previous to payment, all dealings concerning the case are handled by the secretary of the collective. Until August 1952, 40 percent of the fee in a case went to the collective, half being used for general purposes and half for a special fund which is distributed among all members of the collective. Recently the lawyers' collectives were reorganized and renamed (Yuridichna Konsultatsia). Present practise is that each member contributes only 25 percent of his fee, all of which is used for the maintenance of the collective. Income taxes are paid by the individual lawyers.
5. The lawyers' collectives belong to the lawyers' union which is called Collegium (sic).

The Plovdiv Courts and Lawyers' Collective

6. The Plovdiv Okoliya and Okrug Courts are located in Ulitsa Rayko Daskalov. Both have civil and criminal departments. The Okoliya Court has about four or five judges and the Okrug Court has about 12. In each case, the chief judge is a member of the Communist Party with the remainder of the bench containing some non-Party men.
7. The Secretary of the Plovdiv Lawyers' Collective is Israel Levy. He is approximately 45 years old and is a member of the Communist Party.

Comments:

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1. While November 1952 is given as the date of information, the reader should note that currency figures are given in terms of the old Lev as it was calculated prior to May 1952.
2. [redacted] in Bulgaria the courts have jurisdiction not only as described by statute but also in cases of appeal from the courts immediately below them in rank. 25X1
3. [redacted] while an Okoliya Court formerly was empowered to impose fines up to 200,000 Leva, after the end of 1951 it received the power to impose fines of indefinite amounts. 25X1
4. [redacted] a lawyers' collective may have a minimum of seven and a maximum of 30 members and describes the division of fees as above. 25X1

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